

Symposium on Planning Challenges and Planning Education in Iraq

January 10 – 11, 2018, Dortmund

Group 4: Spatial planning in international context: how can planning education address the recent challenges of the country?

Input and facilitation: Dr. Maha Jameel Issa

Two presentations were presented:

Co- and distant teaching: reflections on three years of practical experience in the joint Dohuk-Dortmund Planning Program

by Prof. Volker Kreibich

Challenges in Urban Planning and projects Implementation during Economic Crises in Kurdistan-Duhok, and the interrelations with Academic education and cooperation between Universities and Municipalities

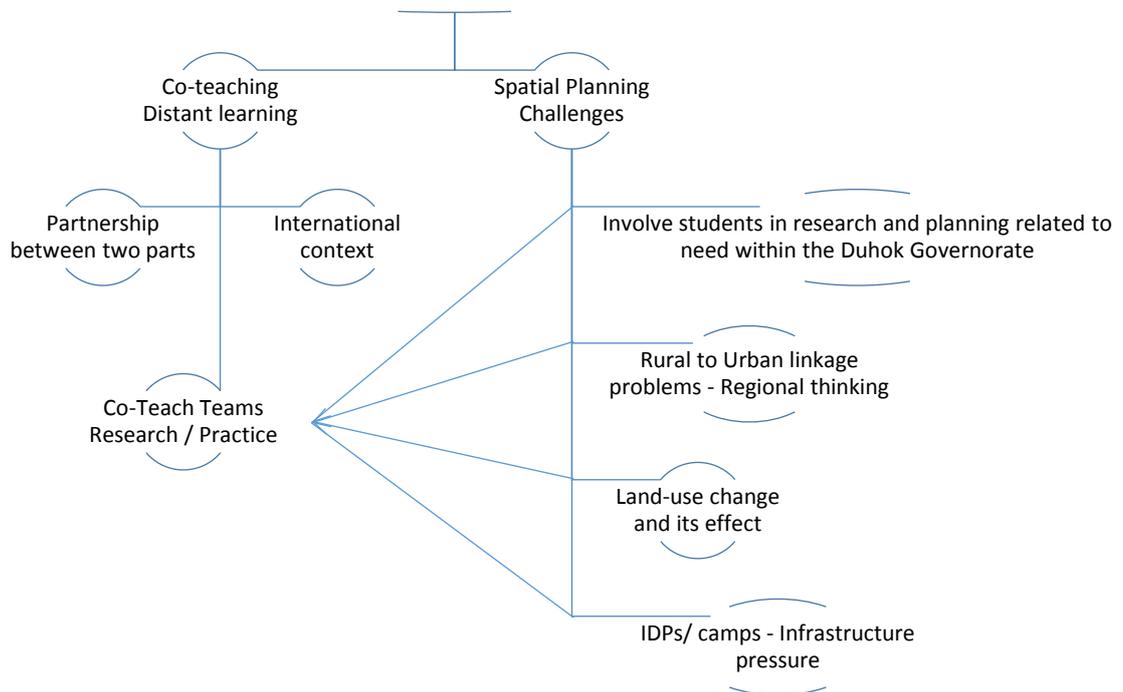
Mr. Kurdo Ihsan

Within the discussion the group combined the challenges of spatial planning application in the municipality and the challenges of co-teaching. Many challenges in co-teaching related to the creation and maintenance of working partnerships between co-teachers where research is informing classwork and student projects, while also remaining relevant to topics within the Duhok Governorate. Past experiences between co-teach partners has not always cemented into a long-term knowledge alliance and one cause of this could be the lack of joint scientific research which requires longer term and in-depth relationships to be built to carry out field work and publish results.

The challenges in the application of spatial planning within the Governorate were topically related where new emerging challenges with spatial dimensions are difficult for the City or Governorate to address because of the lack of comprehensive spatial information and planning at the requisite scale. The specific areas mentioned by Mr. Kurdo Ihsan were the interactions between urban and rural areas within the framework of regional spatial planning, how that relates to strategies to release population and infrastructure pressure in Duhok caused by the IDP influx, and changes in land use due to recent growth and the modelling of future land use scenarios.

The synthesis of the two paper topics is to use co-teach partnerships as a means of developing research topics within the Municipality or Governorate supported by student work and which influences teaching material within the BSc or future MSc program. In this sense, points of expertise are built within a framework where the College of Spatial Planning and Applied Sciences acts as a consultancy with the official capacity to produce plans and research which satisfy the aims of strategic urban and regional planning within the Governorate. This idea is encapsulated into the diagram below.

Spatial Planning in International Context - Education & Challenges



The main problems that both authors faced:

1. Shortage of academic expertise
2. Inefficient laws and regulations
3. Resource mobilization / budget
4. Non-cooperation between directorates
5. Need of strict monitoring of implementation of built projects
6. Community participation does not occur
7. Communication in inter-cultural contexts

The recommendations of the group in linking the two subjects were as followed:

1. Focus on understanding intercultural differences in communication during co-teaching / distance teaching amongst students and instructors.
2. Focus on local problems related to real spatial planning challenges within directorates.
3. More involvement of students in ongoing projects of directorates and municipalities, by researches that are being done by the students, internship, and surveys.
4. Increasing communication with NGOs and increasing the civil society role to support their role in Monitoring against corruption through Media and Awareness campaigns. This is due to weak monitoring system of plans.